

REMARKS

SUMMARY:

The subject application sets forth claims 1-20, of which claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 are independent claims.

The detailed action dated October 29, 2003 set forth several characterizations of the subject application. Such Office Action alleges that the submitted oath or declaration is defective. The disclosure as well as claim 6 are objected to for various informalities as set forth in the detailed action. Original claims 1-2, 6-7, 11-12 and 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,911,069 (Beard). Original claims 3, 5, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Beard in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,481,577 (Forson). Original claims 4, 9, 14 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Beard in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,761,407 (Benson et al).

Responses to each of the characterizations outlined above, including a traversal of each prior art rejection, will follow in order as presented by the Examiner in the October 29, 2003 Office Action.

OATH OR DECLARATION:

The oath or declaration is alleged as defective because the inventor's signatures are missing. Applicants submit that appropriate declarations were submitted and thus reconsideration of such allegation is respectfully requested.

The subject application names three joint inventors, each of which executed a respective declaration by signing separate declaration signature sheets. These three separate original declaration executions were submitted on November 16, 2001 and copies thereof are resubmitted with the present response for convenience of the Examiner. The Patent Office does allow for execution by joint inventors of separate oaths or declarations, and thus the allegation of defectiveness is respectfully traversed.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION:

The disclosure stands objected to because of the following informality: Page 10, lines 2-3 contain "Changing exceptions...stable.", which is a duplicate of the sentence immediately preceding. In response, Applicants presently submit amendments to such portion of the specification to modify this inadvertently repeated statement in order to clearly overcome the objection set forth in the October 29, 2003 Office Action. Such amendments do not add any new matter to the subject application.

OBJECTION TO CLAIM 6:

Original claim 6 stands objected to for the following informality: Claim 6 recites "capture an exception" on line 4, which apparently should be "capturing an exception". In response, Applicants presently submit amendments to claim 6 to modify such inadvertent miswording in order to clearly overcome the objection set forth in the October 29, 2003 Office Action.

Additional amendments are presented to claims 1, 5, 10, 11, 13 and 15 to correct additional inadvertent misspelling or miswording in such claims. All such amendments do not add any new matter to the subject application.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) REJECTION (CLAIMS 1-2, 6-7, 11-12 and 16-17):

Original claims 1-2, 6-7, 11-12 and 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,911,069 (Beard). Based on the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of such alleged anticipation.

Original claims 1 and 16 are directed to respective systems for providing exception handling for a computer program. Since advanced computing and networking environments may result in exceptions/errors occurring in many various locations throughout a computer program, it is an advantage of the present technology to handle all such exceptions regardless of where they may occur.

Beard discloses features for characterizing exceptions for a specific environment limited to employing a System Object Model (SOM) method. Programs based on SOM

techniques employ a mechanism in which the calling object, rather than the called method, detects and handles the exception. The features and steps disclosed in Beard are utilized only for this particular type of method, and not for an entire computer program which may often include many different methods and possible types thereof. As such, Beard does not disclose features for providing exception handling for a broad realm of computer programs as set forth in original claims 1 and 16 and thus Beard does not anticipate such claims.

Claims 2 and 17 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable. Since such claims respectively depend from otherwise allowable claims 1 and 16 and further limit same, claims 2 and 17 should also be allowed.

Original claim 6 is directed to a method for providing exception handling for a computer program. Since advanced computing and networking environments may result in exceptions/errors occurring in many various locations throughout a computer program, it is an advantage of the present technology to handle all such exceptions regardless of where they may occur.

Beard discloses features for characterizing exceptions for a specific environment limited to employing a System Object Model (SOM) method. Programs based on SOM techniques employ a mechanism in which the calling object, rather than the called method, detects and handles the exception. The features and steps disclosed in Beard are utilized only for this particular type of method, and not for an entire computer program which may often include many different methods and possible types thereof. As such, Beard does not disclose steps for providing exception handling for a broad realm of computer programs as set forth in original claim 6 and thus Beard does not anticipate claim 6.

Claim 7 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable. Since such claim depends from otherwise allowable claim 6 and further limits same, claim 7 should also be allowed.

Original claim 11 is directed to a computer readable medium for providing exception handling for a computer program. Since advanced computing and networking environments may result in exceptions/errors occurring in many various

locations throughout a computer program, it is an advantage of the present technology to handle all such exceptions regardless of where they may occur.

Beard discloses features for characterizing exceptions for a specific environment limited to employing a System Object Model (SOM) method. Programs based on SOM techniques employ a mechanism in which the calling object, rather than the called method, detects and handles the exception. The features and steps disclosed in Beard are utilized only for this particular type of method, and not for an entire computer program which may often include many different methods and possible types thereof. As such, Beard does not disclose features for providing exception handling for a broad realm of computer programs as set forth in original claim 11 and thus Beard does not anticipate claim 11.

Claim 12 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable. Since such claim depends from otherwise allowable claim 11 and further limits same, claim 12 should also be allowed.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) REJECTION (CLAIMS 3, 5, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18 and 20):

Original claims 3, 5, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Beard in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,481,577 (Forson). Based on the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of such alleged obviousness.

Based on the present amendments and above remarks concerning claims 1, 6, 11 and 16, such claims should be allowed. Since claims 3, 8, 13 and 18 variously depend from such respective independent claims and further limit such claims, claims 3, 8, 13 and 18 should also be allowed.

Regarding claim 5, the October 29, 2003 Office Action alleges that Forson teaches means for propagating the exception to a central place if the exception type is not a validation exception. Applicants respectfully submit that Beard and Forson fail to disclose singularly or in combination features or steps for identifying such specific exceptions as validation exceptions. Furthermore, neither reference discloses propagating the exception to a central place. Although an editor program 107 may be

used in Forson to generate individual files for several users, such an editor program is not apparently utilized for propagating exceptions to a central place upon identification as a validation exception. As such, all elements of claim 5 are not disclosed singularly or in combination of the Beard and Forson references. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the alleged obviousness of claim 5.

The October 29, 2003 Office Action applies the above-referenced assertions regarding claim 5 to additional original claims 10, 15 and 20. Based on the above remarks in response to such obviousness allegation, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10, 15 and 20 should also be allowed since Beard and Forson fail to disclose singularly or in combination steps and features for both identifying such specific exceptions as validation exceptions as well as propagating the exception to a central place upon identification as a validation exception.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) REJECTION (CLAIMS 4, 9, 14 and 19):

Original claims 4, 9, 14 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Beard in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,761,407 (Benson et al.). Based on the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of such alleged obviousness.

Regarding claim 4, the October 29, 2003 Office Action alleges that Benson et al. teaches means for continuing processing of the computer program if the exception type is a validation exception. Applicants respectfully submit that Beard and Benson et al. fail to disclose singularly or in combination features or steps for identifying such specific exceptions as validation exceptions. Furthermore, neither reference discloses continuing processing of the computer program for a specific type of exception. Beard discloses making an appropriate return to a caller only when there is no exception (col. 9, lines 30-35), but not for specifically identified types of exceptions such as a validation exception. Similarly, although Benson et al. discloses continuing processing to prevent "dead routines" from cluttering system memories, Benson et al. does not disclose continuing processing specifically when an exception is identified as a validation exception. As such, all elements of claim 4 are not disclosed singularly or in

combination of the Beard and Benson et al. references. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the alleged obviousness of claim 4.

The October 29, 2003 Office Action applies the above-referenced assertions regarding claim 4 to additional original claims 9, 14 and 19. Based on the above remarks in response to such obviousness allegation, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9, 14 and 19 should also be allowed since Beard and Forson fail to disclose singularly or in combination steps and features for both identifying such specific exceptions as validation exceptions as well as continuing processing if a validation exception is identified.

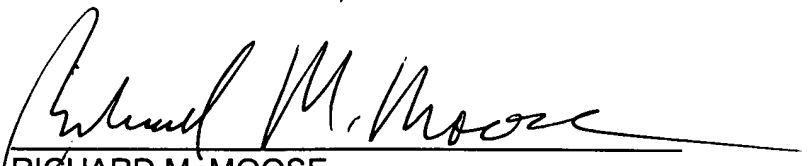
CONCLUSION:

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at last the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits the present application, including claims 1-20, is in complete condition for issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance, and action to such effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at his convenience should only minor issues remain after consideration of this response in order to permit early resolution of same.

Respectfully submitted,

DORITY & MANNING,
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